

war resisters' international
internationale des résistant/es à la guerre
internationale der kriegsdienstgegner/innen
internacional de resistentes a la guerra
Internacio de militgerezistantoj



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To the war resisters from Serbia and Croatia, meeting in Amsterdam, 13 October 1991

October 10, 1991

Dear friends

I send greetings on behalf of War Resisters' International, an organisation with members in some 40 countries all of whom are pledged not to support any kind of war.

We are aware of the personal costs you may have to bear for your refusal to fight, of the pain of having to leave your homes and perhaps your loved ones too, of your concern for those you have left behind and about what is happening, of the difficulties and uncertainties you now face. We are aware too that your conscientious objection is a new phenomenon in your situation, and one that many in your community find hard to accept. You have probably been called cowards: we know that your stand requires true courage.

We support you as people acting out of our common humanity. But, to us, you are also symbols of hope for peace. The processes of peace and security depend on people acting in conscience, out of loyalty to values which promote dialogue rather than loyalty to political leaderships whose strength is based on inflaming antagonism.

As the conflict intensifies, some of you may doubt your decision not to fight. We are convinced that your withdrawal of support from the armed forces, be they federal or republican, is a vital contribution towards the prospect of peace in the region.

To the war resisters from Serbia, we say that you are a living proof that Serbia is not Milosevic. You are the embodiment of hope for a future of peace and cooperation.

To the war resisters from Croatia, we say that you are a living proof that Croatia is not Tudjman. You are leading the way to a future where people can live in peace, respecting each other's rights.

We wish you every strength.

Yours sincerely

Howard Clark